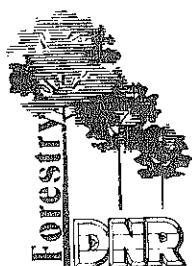


Morgan-Monroe State Forest

6220 Forest Road
Martinsville, IN 46151
Phone: 765-342-4026



The Division of Forestry

Morgan-Monroe State Forest is operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry. The mission of the Division of

Forestry is to promote and practice good forest stewardship on Indiana's public and private lands. This stewardship provides continuing benefits, both tangible and intangible, for present and future generations.



Morgan Monroe

STATE FOREST

Welcome to Morgan-Monroe State Forest!

Morgan-Monroe is located 4 miles south of Martinsville and 16 miles northeast of Bloomington on State Road 37. Most of the forest's 24,000 acres consist of steep, forested ridges and valleys and support some of the state's finest hardwoods. The original settlers of the area cleared and attempted to farm the ridges, but were frustrated by rocky soil unsuitable for agriculture. The state purchased the eroded, abandoned land to create Morgan-Monroe State Forest in 1929.

State Forest Management Policy

State forests are managed under a policy of multiple use in order to obtain benefits of recreation, forest products, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. The growth and harvest of timber is planned to be compatible with recreation activities, and to retain the watershed protection that forests naturally provide.

Camping

Like most other state forests, Morgan-Monroe has no entrance gate and charges no entrance fees. Primitive camping is available for a minimal fee; campers must register for camping at the forest office. Mason Ridge Campground, located behind the fire tower north of the forest office, has pit toilets and seasonal drinking water available. There is a picnic table and grill located on each of the campground's 21 sites. On busy weekends, overflow camping is available at Oak Ridge Campground. Oak Ridge has 11 sites and the same facilities as Mason Ridge.

Scout Ridge Youth Tent Campground is available for scouts or other groups. Sites in Scout Ridge Campground are larger than regular campground sites and there are several picnic tables and grills available. Scout Ridge Nature Preserve is located in this area.

Facilities

Several picnic areas and picnic shelters are available for day use. Picnic shelters are located at Cherry Lake, Beanblossom Lake, Bryant Creek Lake and Scout Ridge Campground. The Wall Picnic Shelter with a large picnic area and playground are located at the junction of Main Forest Road and Beanblossom Road. Use of all picnic shelters is on a first-come, first-served basis; reservations are not accepted. There is no charge to use the picnic shelters.

Other picnic areas, with picnic tables and grills, are located throughout the forest. Some areas are small and may accommodate only a single group while other areas are larger. Check the forest map for picnic area locations.

Lakes

Three forest lakes are open to fishing; a valid Indiana fishing license is required to fish at Morgan-Monroe. Bryant Creek Lake (9 acres), Cherry Lake (4 acres) and Prather Lake (4 acres) are all open to fishing. Boat ramps are located on Bryant Creek and Cherry Lakes; boat motors are limited to electric trolling motors only. Beanblossom Lake drained when the levee failed after several days of heavy rain in November 1993. Vehicles are not permitted on the dry lake bed, and all levees are closed to vehicle traffic. Swimming is not permitted in any of the lakes.

Hiking

Six hiking trails cover more than 20 miles in Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

Three Lakes Trail is a loop trail that connects Cherry Lake, Beanblossom Lake and Bryant Creek Lake. This rugged trail is 10.2 miles long; the trail head is located at the south end of Cherry Lake.

The Low Gap Trail consists of three loops (3 miles, 8½ miles and 10 miles). These trails begin and end at the trail head just east of Wall Picnic Shelter along the Main Forest Road. The 8½ and 10 mile loops run through the Back country Area, where overnight backpack camping is permitted. You must register at the forest office before camping in the back country area; there is no fee for back country camping. For a detailed map of the back country area, purchase a topographical map of the Hindustan quad.

Scout Ridge Nature Trail is an easy, half-mile walk inside the Scout Ridge Nature Preserve. To discover what kinds of trees grow in and around Morgan-Monroe, try walking the Tree Identification Trail, a ¾ mile trail that features numbered posts with the tree species identified.

Draper Cabin

Draper Cabin is a primitive, stone-floored log cabin that takes visitors 100 years back in time to the days before electricity, vehicles and modern plumbing. Reservations for the cabin are accepted for any night from the first weekend in April to the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Cabin may be rented on a day by day basis, depending on weather conditions, during the winter. Cost for renting the cabin is \$26.75 per night.

Thank You for Visiting Morgan-Monroe!

Morgan Monroe STATE FOREST

Morgan-Monroe State Forest is located in southern Indiana, 4 miles south of Martinsville and 16 miles northeast of Bloomington. Most of the forest's 24,000 acres consists of steep ridges and valleys forested with some of the state's finest hardwoods.

To ensure the enjoyment of all visitors to the state forest, please help protect the land by following these few rules:

- Carry out all garbage and trash
- Off-road vehicles, mountain bikes and snowmobiles are not permitted on fire lanes or trails
- Remember Smokey Bear and be careful with fire! Never leave a campfire unattended.

KEY

- State Forest Property
- Private Property
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Safety Zone
- County Border
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Campground
- Water
- Cemetery

Hiking Trails

- Three Lakes Trail
- Low Gap Trail
- Mason Ridge Trail

